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SCOTT SNYDER RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

AMERICAN VAMPIRE



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Nov '10
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suggested for
mature readers
verilogocomics.com

Rafael Albuquerque 10-

VERTIGO



CHIEF
MCGOWAN! WHAT
A NICE SURPRISE.
WHAT CAN I HELP
YOU WITH?

I NEED TO
SPEAK TO ONE
OF YOUR GIRLS,
SMOKE.



OF COURSE YOU DO,
CHIEF! I UNDERSTAND...
THE WIFE IS LAID UP AND
READY TO POP. YOU
GOT TO GET YOUR FUN
SOMEWHERE, AM I
RIGHT?

NOW EACH
GIRL'S GOT HER
TALENTS, SO YOU
JUST TELL OLD JIM
SMOKE YOUR
FANCIES...



THIS IS AGENT STRAW OF
THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION AND
HIS ASSISTANT.

OOOH,
HOOVER'S
MOVERS. IT'S
AN HONOR.

WE NEED TO SPEAK
WITH WHOEVER WAS
WITH HOWARD
BEAULIEU YESTERDAY.
SEEMS HE'S BEEN
MURDERED.

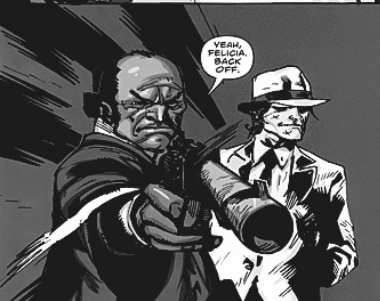


MURDERED!
OH MY... WELL
OF COURSE,
CHIEF.

PETAL!
COME TALK
TO US,
DOLLY.

YEAH
BABY?







WHAT
THE HELL
WAS THAT IN
THERE?

WHY DON'T
YOU TELL ME,
CHIEF? YOU BARELY
QUESTIONED THE
GIRL. YOU LET
SMOKE WALK ALL
OVER US...



LOOK DOWN.
MY FATHER BLEED
TO DEATH RIGHT
HERE, ALMOST
EXACTLY WHERE
YOU'RE STANDING
NOW. SHOT IN
THE BACK.



THE MAN ADOPTED ME WHEN I
WAS SIX YEARS OLD. TOOK ME IN
AND SAVED ME FROM A LIFE OF
ORPHANAGES. RAISED ME
LIKE HIS OWN BLOOD.

YOU THINK IT'S EASY FOR
ME TO STAND THERE WITH
SMOKE, SUSPECT NUMBER
ONE IN HIS MURDER, AND NOT
RIP HIS GOD-DAMN
HEAD OFF?



BUT 'TIL THE
END, MY FATHER
BELIEVED IN RESPECT
FOR THE LAW, FOR THE
RIGHTS OF EVERYONE,
EVEN TRASH LIKE
SMOKE.

AND IN ALL
MY YEARS AS HIS
DEPUTY, I NEVER
ONCE SAW HIM LOSE
HIS COOL LIKE YOU
DID BACK THERE!



AGENT STRAW.
WHAT WAS THE
TEMPERATURE AT
ABOUT SAY... 5 IN
THE AFTERNOON
YESTERDAY?

WHAT?

THE
TEMPERATURE.



IT WAS
HOT. AT LEAST
EIGHTY-FIVE
DEGREES.

IT WAS
NINETY-ONE AT
FIVE O'CLOCK
YESTERDAY.

NOW THAT GIRL
BACK THERE WEIGHED
MAYBE A BUCK TEN, AFTER
DINNER. EVEN IF SHE
COULD TAKE DOWN A MAN
BEAULIEU'S SIZE, AND
DRAIN HIM OF ALL
HIS BLOOD...

...THERE'S STILL NO WAY THE BODY WE SAW AT THE PEABODY HAD BEEN LYING ON THAT FLOOR, IN THAT ROOM, IN NINETY DEGREE HEAT FOR HOURS ON END.

BEAULIEU WAS KILLED AFTER THE HEAT BROKE, IN THE NIGHT, BY SOMEONE BIG, WHO STILL HAD NO TROUBLE SNEAKING UP ON HIM. SO MOST LIKELY, SOMEONE HE KNEW, AT LEAST IN PASSING.

AND IF YOU COULDN'T SEE THAT, THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK TO WASHINGTON.

BECAUSE YOU SURE AS HELL AREN'T GOING TO BE ANY HELP TO ME HERE.

WAIT, CHIEF MCCOGAN. I'M SORRY... WE'RE SORRY.

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON MISS BOOK.

SHE'S BEEN WORKING MANY HOT CABBES THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF.

GIRLS KIDNAPPED INTO PROSTITUTION. SEEING THE FRONTIER--IT CUTS.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MISS BOOK.

FELICIA?

I LOST MY HEAD. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

IT BETTER NOT... NOW GET IN. IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY, AND SOMETHING TELLS ME TOMORROW'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY SHORTER.

YOU CAN BET ON IT, CHIEF.



ALL THIS
LEGALIZATION WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
TEMPORARY. THE
GAMBLING, THE
PROSTITUTION.



TO MAKE A LITTLE
EXTRA MONEY OFF THE
DAM WORKERS... HELP
GET THE CITY THROUGH
THE DARK TIMES...



...LOOKING
OUT AT THE
CITY NOW,
THOUGH...

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE ANY
OF IT GOING AWAY--EVER.





THAT'S
WHAT EVERYONE
THINKS--THEY THINK
BEING A COP IS ABOUT
PUNISHING PEOPLE FOR
DOING WRONG.

BUT THAT'S NOT
TRUE. YOU KNOW IT
ISN'T. IT'S ABOUT
BELIEVING IN PEOPLE,
BELIEVING IN THE
GOOD.

IN THE WILL OF PEOPLE
TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT
DESPITE THEIR OWN
INSTINCTS, YOU'RE GOOD
AT THAT. BETTER THAN
I AM. BETTER THAN I
EVER WAS.

TSS.
BULLSHIT.

NO, IT'S TRUE. I'M LOSING IT,
CASH. I TRY TO BE HOPEFUL
ABOUT THIS PLACE, ABOUT THESE
PEOPLE... TO BELIEVE WE'LL CLEAN
OURSELVES UP WHEN THE DAM'S
DONE, BUT I DON'T KNOW
ANYMORE.

I LOOK
AROUND AND
ALL I SEE IS A
NIGHTMARE.

YOU THINK I
DON'T FEEL THE
SAME?

I'M SURE YOU
DO. DIFFERENCE IS,
YOU CAN'T HELP SEEING
PAST IT. YOU COULDN'T
GIVE UP ON THE GOOD
IF YOU WANTED TO.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES
YOU--YOU.

IF I WERE
YOU THOUGH,
FOR THE SAKE
OF THAT BABY,
I'D TRY.

MY FATHER WAS RIGHT--NO
MATTER HOW MUCH I WANT
TO, NO MATTER HOW MUCH
I TRY... I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP
ON THIS PLACE, YET.



BUT ON NIGHTS LIKE
THIS, IT'S HARD TO
IMAGINE THAT THIS
STRANGE NEW CITY
OUTSIDE MY WINDOW
WASN'T THERE ALL
ALONG, HIDING INSIDE
THE ONE I KNEW...



...WAITING TO
BE BORN.



...MORE WORRISOME WAS THE SIZE OF THE PUNCTURES...



...THE RADIUS OF THE FANG, LIKELY LOCATED AT THE SECOND MAXILLARY INCISOR, CHARTS AT NEARLY NINE MILLIMETERS--TOO BIG FOR A COMMON CARPATHIAN.

WHRRRRRR



MY GUESS IS SOMETHING OLDER. PRE-GENOCIDE. MAYBE GAELIC... STOP TAPE.

NOK
NOK



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ABOUT THE TARGET? WELL, ITS FAMILIARITY WITH THE TOWN SUGGESTS THAT IN ITS HUMAN FORM, IT RESIDES HERE.



SO SOMEONE LOCAL, WHO KNOWS THE PLACE AND ITS PEOPLE--WHO TRANSFORMS AND KILLS.

AND CLEARLY WHOEVER IT IS, THEY'RE TRYING TO DISRUPT CONSTRUCTION ON THE DAM FOR REASONS THAT--

FELICIA...



I WAS TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.





I'M SORRY.
DID I SCARE
YOU?



WHAT...
WHAT DO
YOU WANT,
SWEET?

YOU KNOW
IT TOOK ME A
MINUTE TO PUT
IT TOGETHER. TO
REALIZE WHO
YOU WERE...



I CAN SMELL
HIM ON YOU
THOUGH...

GET
OUT!



SHEESH... ALL RIGHT,
ALL RIGHT. I ONLY CAME
BY TO WELCOME YOU
TO LAS VEGAS...

...AND TO REMIND YOU
OF THAT DEAL
I HAVE WITH
YOUR LITTLE
GROUP. WHICH
IS...



IMMUNITY.
WE CAN'T TOUCH
YOU.

NOW AIN'T
THAT A SHAME.
NIGHT-NIGHT.





"MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE BOULDER
DAM IS THE SINGLE GREATEST
ENGINEERING FEAT IN HISTORY.

"TO MAKE IT WE'VE
FELLED MOUNTAINS...



"WE'VE MOVED A RIVER, THE GREAT COLORADO, MIGHTY ARTERY OF THE WEST, SO THAT IT MIGHT IRRIGATE OUR DESERTS AND BRING THIS LAND BACK FROM THE DEAD."

"THE CONCRETE POURED ALREADY COULD PAVE A SIDEWALK STRETCHING AROUND THE EQUATOR."

"THE DAM IS OUR LEGACY, OFFICERS..."



IT'S
NOTHING
LESS THAN AN
AMERICAN
PYRAMID.



THAT'S ALL VERY INTERESTING,
MR. FILMOT, BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY
QUESTION. IS THERE ANYONE YOU'D LIST
AS AN ENEMY TO MR. BEULIE? ANYONE
WHO'D WANT TO HARM HIM, YOU, OR
THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR
CONSORTIUM OF FOUR?



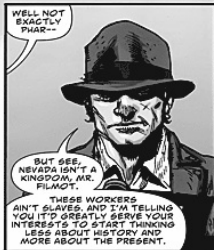
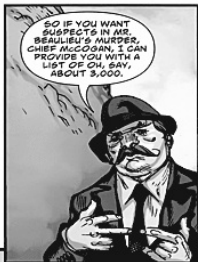
YOU'RE
NOT LISTENING,
CHIEF MCCOGAN.
THE DAM IS OUR
GEM.



AND IF YOU
THINK THOSE BENT AND
SUN-SCORCHED MEN WHO
CONSTRUCTED THE PYRAMIDS
DIDN'T SOMETIMES WANT
TO HARM THEIR BOSSES,
OR THE PHAROHS
THEMSELVES...



THEN, YOUNG
MAN, YOU DON'T
KNOW YOUR
HISTORY.





IT'S ME...
NO, HE WASN'T
JUST KILLED, HE WAS
COMPLETELY DE-
SANGUINATED....

OF COURSE
HE'S TELLING THE
TRUTH... I SAW A
PHOTOGRAPH FOR
GOD'S SAKE.



CALM YOURSELF,
MR. FILMOT. I'VE
ALREADY SENT A TEAM
TO LAS VEGAS TO
INVESTIGATE. THEY
SHOULD BE THERE
BY TOMORROW
MORNING.

WELL WHY
DIDN'T YOU
SAY--



WHAT
THE... WHO'S
THERE?



HELLO,
DANIEL.

MR. FILMOT,
WHAT'S
GOING ON?



NO...
PLEASE!





"WHAT DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT VAMPIRES?"

Arrowhead, California.



"PEARL JONES MIGHT
JUST BE THE DEADLIEST
VAMPIRE ON EARTH."



To be
Continued...

DEVIL IN THE SAND PART TWO

WRITER: SCOTT SNYDER ARTIST: RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
COLORS: DAVE MCCAIG LETTERS: STEVE WANDS
COVER: RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE EDITOR: MARK DOYLE
AMERICAN VAMPIRE CREATED BY SCOTT SNYDER

ON THE LEDGE

EDITORIAL BY

INVERNA LOCKPEZ

I left Cuba in the late 1960s after I realized I could no longer live under the

revolution I had once welcomed with open arms. For years, every time I would remember a story about that time—about my family, my artists' collective, my time in prison—I would tell it. Dean Haspiel is a member of my extended family, so he literally grew up hearing these stories. One day he told me I had to write them down. I told him there was too much to write, too much to remember. "You write it as a novel," he said, "and I will illustrate it."

What would happen when I tried to remember the details of what I had spent years trying to forget? I went to Florida for two weeks and returned to New York with more than three hundred pages. My memories gushed like the rush of water over a dam. To select what would move the story forward was like playing chess: every single move was important.

Finally, the collaboration with Dean began. Like me, he is very sure of himself, and I knew we would clash. I had always admired his work and for years I encouraged him to be true to his artistic principles. But now I had to ask myself, what about mine? He would have to recreate my memories and feelings visually, and what if I didn't like them? As a painter, I am accustomed to creating my pieces, identifying the pictorial problems, and solving them myself.

Weeks and months went by, and I learned that when you're working with someone at a similar level of creativity and experience, a miracle happens. We were a match, and after two years my world of words became a visual theater.

Seeing the stories in print, I sometimes remember the biting sting of the hose against my body, and smell my flesh burning from the wires. The fear will never go away, but I don't live at its mercy anymore. I now have a stronger sense of myself. I can write this work of fiction, inspired by my true experiences, with the hope of making my country a better place.

—Inverna Lockpez

CUBA: My Revolution

From first-time author Inverna Lockpez and Eisner-nominated artist Dean Haspiel, a powerful graphic novel inspired by a true story. Against the turmoil of the Cuban Revolution, a young medical student dreams of becoming a painter, but is caught between idealism and ideology under Castro's regime.



Harvey Pekar, 1939-2010

Harvey Pekar was the first writer I brought into Vertigo. My first week on the job. Needless to say, I was pretty excited.

Now it's six years later and suddenly, Harvey is gone. I'm still in shock. I knew about his health problems, but somehow, Harvey seemed like one of those guys who would just keep going and going. When we worked together, Harvey called every day. He read every script over the phone before he mailed it. (He always mailed it. The U.S. Postal Service could count on Harvey.) The first graphic novel he wrote for me was called *THE QUITTER*. The title was right for the book, but not for the Harvey I knew.

When I was editing his latest and, as it turned out, last issues of *AMERICAN SPLENDOR* and had a two- or three-page hole to fill, I called him. He often had a call with a different publisher going on his second house line, or a jazz disc on the turntable for a review he was writing.

But within an hour (usually quicker), he'd call back and read his new story to me. Nothing could stop him. It never even occurred to me that anything would. His comics were not "about" his life. They were, quite literally, his life. In pencil and ink.

So we now live in an America without Harvey Pekar, a place that for me becomes just a little more difficult to figure out. We produce, in this country, very few of those voices that can give us a bit of guidance through this maze of life.

Now we have one less.

Harvey created a new kind of comics. Call them "graphic memoir," "indie" or whatever, they were comics for anyone who's ever looked in a mirror, seen a less-than-perfect person, then gone on with life anyway. Harvey made comics into art for the people. For you and me.

He leaves an enormous body of work. But Harvey also leaves us a trust, that his art for the people will keep going and going. I hope that all of us who read, love and create comics remember to keep that trust.

Now that he's no longer part of my life, I hope I will.

At least I'll try to do what you would do, Harvey. The best I can.

—Jonathan Yankin

09.10

HIT LIST

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CREEK STREET #15 • HELLBLAZER #271 • HOUSE OF MYSTERY #29
ZOMBIE #5 • JOE THE BARBARIAN #8 • MADAME XANADU #27
NORTHLANDERS #32 • SANDMAN: THE DREAM HUNTERS • SCALPED #41
SWEET TOOTH #13 • TRANSMETROPOLITAN VOL. 8 • UNKNOWN SOLDIER #24
UNWRITTEN #17

GRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

AMERICAN VAMPIRE VOL. 1 HC

Collecting the first story arc of the hit new series, AMERICAN VAMPIRE introduces a new, more vicious breed of vampire from Scott Snyder, Rafael Albuquerque and horror master Stephen King! Packed with Bonus Features!



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Illustration by Dean Haspiel. The cover art is a stylized illustration of a man's face in profile, looking towards the right, with the title 'CUBA MY REVOLUTION' in bold, stylized letters above it.

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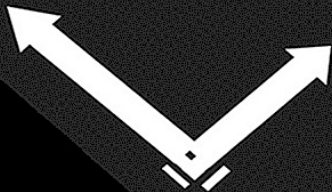
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*The
Unresurrected*